

Weekly Column for September 13, 2007

There's something about a beautiful day in downtown Troy that puts you in a wonderful mood. When we put the finishing touches on this agreement to relocate City Hall, I can tell you, the one thing I will really miss is the view.

Excuse the Jeopardy theme, but this column is like the potpourri category.

This is a busy time of year in the City of Troy. Here's a little taste of what is going on.

We are diligently putting together the 2008 Operating Budget, which is scheduled to be released on October 1st. This is always a very intensive process, as we want to make sure we have the best possible spending plan in place prior to submitting it to the City Council, and we always want to limit the burden that is placed on taxpayers.

Next week we will be submitting applications for the Restore NY Grant Program for some of the many exciting projects we have taking place in Troy. Up and down the Hudson River there is opportunity brewing in Troy, and this grant program really stands a chance of helping us out with some of those.

Tonight there will be a City Council meeting at 7 p.m. to take action on two new contracts that were agreed to last week by the CSEA and the Command Officers in the Police Department. Both contracts are similar in scope to the contract that the firefighters received earlier in the summer, with the unions receiving a 3.5 percent increase in pay each year. In return they have agreed to a deal that will really help the City bring the health care system back in line with where it should be.

Next week there will be two exciting press conferences taking place concerning the future of Troy. One has already been discussed in newspapers this week if you want to do some digging, and the other may come as a bit of a surprise. Stay tuned for all of that.

Before I end for the week, I want to take a moment and thank all of the volunteers who made the Uncle Sam Parade a success this past weekend. You all did a wonderful job in making sure that everything went off without a hitch, despite some solid efforts from Mother Nature to ruin the day. To see the people gathered on their porches as we marched by during the parade was a great sight, and all should be commended for their hard work.

The cold weather is coming! Make sure to enjoy every day before then. Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy